

LAMBDA VALLEY

May 1987

MONTHLY

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Run, Ginny, Run We Need a Gay or Lesbian Presidential Candidate

by DAVID SCONDRA

Boston City Council

I agree with Reverend Pat Robertson.

His gun-toting, bible-thumping television 'ministry' warns us that America is in desperate need of salvation, and I agree.

But we are talking about saving two different America's — his one of polyester patriots who see conformity as an index of righteousness and who fear the responsibility freedom brings.

His political vision of this country is precisely the one I want to save our country from.

But Reverend Robertson is ahead in the battle. As a presidential candidate he understands that though his views represent only a small minority of people in this country, he can exercise disproportionate political influence because he has organized, vocalized, and energized his followers.

The gay and lesbian community can learn a lot from Reverend Robertson. And the number one lesson is that we should run an openly gay or lesbian candidate for President.

To such a race we bring limited, but enormously useful and powerful resources. We are natural coalition builders for we are male and female, black and white, young and old, urban and rural, comprised of every nationality, religion and economic background.

And we are everywhere. Our hundred of newspapers, thousands of bars, community centers, health clinics, churches, organizations and millions of brothers and sisters coupled with our compassion, energy, and unmatched creativity are ripe with national political potential.

Imagine this scenario: someone with the skill, persuasiveness, and appeal of Ginny Apuzzi enters the New Hampshire primary.

Hundreds of students from New England stream into New Hampshire joining activists there to tell voters of Ginny's vision, her commitment to a broad range of issues, and her courage in fighting to liberate us all from homophobic bigotry.

At every candidates forum, television appearance, and campaign stop, the national presidential campaign is forced to deal with lesbian and gay issues, to hear our demands as presented by an articulate, personable woman. Gary Hart would be forced to speak out on our rights as parents. Richard Gephardt would have to address his proposal for a national AIDS policy. And Michael Dukakis would be challenged at every turn.

Ginny could capture the imagination of people everywhere, and perhaps even astonish political pundits by placing well among independent-minded New Hampshire voters with her sincere appeal for a better America.

But how many delegates she wins, how many primaries she manages to run in, is not as important as the fact of her conducting a campaign. Simply by running, by not accepting her seat in the back of the Democratic party bus, she would put us miles ahead of where we would be by relying on straight 'friends' who have produced little for our community.

continued on page 4

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Gay Video

by NAJ NAJARIAN

Goodbye, New York. Forget Philly. No longer need we travel afar for great gay and lesbian movies. Thanks to the technological expertise of the Japanese, and the ambition of local video store merchants, even the most recent releases are available locally. As the time lag between first run theatrical release and video store release gets shorter and shorter, the day that movies hit the stores before entering second run is well nigh here. So let's see what's already in the stores. I'll include country of origin, year of release, and run time.

Mainstream

These are movies very easily obtained, probably at every video store, but they're often not worth the effort.

Cruising (US 1980 106 min) William Friedkin's little foray into New York. Talk about bad press!

A Different Story (US 1978 108) A quirky little tale with Perry King and Meg Foster as gay and lesbian who live together and, whoops, raise a family.

Dorian Gray (European 1970 93) Avoid this lousy rendition of Oscar Wilde's story. Stick to the 1945 version.

Making Love (US 1982 113) Harry Hamlin seduces Michael Ontkean from poor Kate Jackson. Coulda been a Movie of the Week.

Victor/Victoria (US 1982 133).

Lesbian

Less common, but still readily available.

By Design (Canadian 1981 88 min) Patty Duke Astin as a lesbian who wants to be a mother

Desert Hearts (US 1986 ??) Don't miss this!

Killing of Sister George (British 1968 138) Based on Frank Marcus's play

Lianna (US 1983 110) Yes, John Sayles' gem is available on video. Some local stores should have it.

Personal Best (US 1982 124)

Popular Foreign

Like the mainstream movies listed above, these foreign ones are most everywhere.

Another Country (British 1984 90 min)

La Cage Aux Folles, I, II & III (French 1978, 1980, 1985 91, 101, 107) The good, the bad, and the awful.

Fourth Man (Dutch 1979 104) Surprisingly easy to find.

My Beautiful Laundrette (British 1985 84) I even

saw this in a video store in the small town of Fleetwood!

Documentaries

Now things get a bit dicey. Fiction appeals to everybody, but gay documentaries are extremely tough to find outside of Philly. You're more likely to find these on PBS than in your local video store. There are others out there, like Before Stonewall and Word Is Out, but they are rare indeed.

The Male Couple (US 1985 75) McWhirter and Mattison's study.

Life and Times of Harvey Milk (US 1984 87) Uplifting Academy Award winner.

So what's left? Well, if we leave out the Judy Garland and don't list all those wonderful films wherein Mel Gibson bares his chest, that leaves:

Boys in the Band (US 1970 119) Much superior to cut edition you see on the tube.

Death in Venice (Italian 1971 130)

Drifting (Israeli 1983 80) Popular at the Gay Film Fest in Philly a few years ago, good luck in finding this around here.

Entertaining Mr. Sloane (British 1970 94) Incestuous love triangle.

Improper Conduct (US 1984 112)

Mishima (US/Japanese 1985 121)

Naked Civil Servant (British 1978 80) Another high quality British TV movie. John Hurt makes an excellent Quentin Crisp.

Outrageous (Canadian 1977 100) Female impersonator Craig Russell does Davis, Tallulah, Judy.

Querelle (German 1982 120) Fassbinder's last. Won't find it around here.

The Ritz (US 1976 91)

Sunday Bloody Sunday (British 1971 110) Another British triangle.

Taxi Zum Klo (German 1981 107)

To Forget Venice (Italian 1979 110)

Of course there are good gay movies available on video, but they're so obscure you'll never find them around here. You'll have to travel to the Big City. Luckily, most of the art film video stores have very liberal rental policies, by day, even the week, and returns by mail.

continued from page 1

4

APUZZO

By organizing, vocalizing, and energizing we can empower ourselves to do something about the oppression we face, and we can alter the political course of this country with a concentrated, focused campaign.

There will be those who say, "Oh, no we cannot hurt the chances for a Democrat in the White House." And just as Martin Luther King and every liberator before and since has been told, we will be warned that "now is not the time."

This is a mistake.

We want so much to pretend that we belong, that America loves us, that we place every agenda ahead of our own.

We must understand that there is no fight more precious, no cause more just, no victory more deserving, no time more urgent than ours is now.

There must be an end to gay children being thrown off bridges to their deaths.

There must be a new freedom to allow all of us to dance wherever there is dancing.

There must be a realization that America will be made stronger by investing in life rather than insanely wasting trillions in preparation for global destruction.

And there must be an end to the quiet desperation of those shaking in closets and the gratuituous punishment that leads so many of our brothers and sisters to walk crippled through life as emotionally disturbed, mentally tormented, and alcoholic.

More and more of us have the courage and self-respect to recognize that if we do not rock the boat, we will be drowned. The injustices we confront cannot be discounted any longer by feelings that somehow we deserve them, that our struggle for justice is not as valid as others.

We are the people faced with the Dred Scott decision of this century, suffering from the neglect of the disease of this century, with the accumulated indignities and oppression of generations.

And we have the time, talent and vision to change this country.

The national Democratic party has repeatedly slammed its door in our face, willing to take our resources, votes, and energy, but unwilling to stand up for us except with mushed-mouth lip service.

The time has come to push open the door, to announce that it will be easier to include us than to take us for granted.

Pat Robertson is running for President and understands he is fighting a war with homosexuals over America's salvation.

I know which side I'm on.

And I know I need a lesbian or gay presidential candidate.

If you are interested in Ginny running, please drop me a note:

David Sondras
Boston City Council
Boston, MA 02001
or give me a call at (617) 725-4225



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Have a Heart Ball a Blasting Success

by BOB SWEENEY

The FACT-sponsored event held March 15, 1987 at Hamilton Plaza was a huge success, raising \$1,100 for AIDS related activities, including a pledge of \$1,000 to the Lehigh Valley AIDS Services Center, a project to the Lambda Center.

150 people ate, drank, and danced the night away at the fundraising dinner. Tickets were \$25 per person. There was a raffle, the prize a generously donated personal print.

Throughout all the fun and merriment, no one forgot the reason for being there: an AIDS fundraiser. A rousing speech by FACT president Larry Kleppinger made it quite clear we have a

battle to be fought, a battle than can and will be fought together.

Community representation included the four area bars, the Lambda Center, Lehigh Valley AIDS Services Center, the local chapter of the National Organization for Women, and other civic-minded individuals.

FACT has scheduled two other fundraisers: the '87 Bar Olympics at Rainbow Mountain Resort on Sunday, September 13 and the Snow Ball at Americus Centre, Sunday, December 6. So come on out and join the fight against AIDS! ☐

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GLAAD Publishes Open Letter to the Supreme Court

An open letter to the Supreme Court questioning the decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick* (last year's ruling upholding Georgia's sodomy law) appears in the March edition of the *National Law Journal*. The letter is being sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). Over 250 people from the legal-academic community have signed it, including noted civil rights advocate and Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz, ACLU head Ira Glasser, Georgetown University Law School professor Eleanor Holmes Norton, University of Michigan law professor Yale Kamisar, Guido Calabresi, Robert McKay, and other prominent people from the legal community.

The letter condemns the Court's superficial consideration of the issues raised in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, and it labels it "an attack on the gay and lesbian segment of our population." The letter quotes from the dissenting opinion, authored by Justice Harry Blackmun, which states that only the most willful blindness could obscure the fact that sexual intimacy is "a sensitive key relationship of human existence, central to family life, community welfare, and development of human personality."

The Equal Rights Action Committee (ERAC) of GLAAD was formed in response to the Supreme Court decision. In addition to the open letter project, ERAC sponsored a rally in New York on the opening day of the Supreme Court that featured

Michael Hardwick and drew national coverage on CNN. The committee recently sponsored a demonstration against Justice Byron White when he appeared at an American Bar Association event in New York.

This marks the first time that a Lesbian or Gay issue will appear in full page format in the *National Law Journal*, and the second time that any political issue has been presented in this way, the first being an open letter on the Manion confirmation last year.

ERAC hopes to print the open letter as a full page ad in the *New York Times* on June 30th, the first anniversary of the decision. Jeffrey Sosnick, chair of the organization, feels that the project "will show the nation that this community has not forgotten the Hardwick decision, and that we are going to keep fighting in the twenty-six states where sodomy laws are still enforceable." He added that this and other ads are part of GLAAD's ongoing positive image campaign. ERAC needs individual and organizational contributions. Donations should be earmarked "ERAC letter" and sent to:

GLAAD
Box 809
263-A West 19th St.
New York, NY 10011

□

Letters to the Editor

If you have any legitimate gripes about *Lambda Valley Monthly*, regarding articles or representation, Lambda Center, the bars or anything affecting the gay community, write a letter to the editor of *Lambda Valley Monthly*. If you want to get involved and don't know how or where, write a letter!

All letters should be addressed to:

Lambda Valley Monthly
Box 1633
Allentown, PA 18105

Fight the Fear with FACT

submitted by the FACT CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE

Arising from community need, inspired by a couple of fun loving people and backed by dedicated founders, the Lehigh Valley now has FACT. *Fighting AIDS Continuously Together* is the spirit of this new organization aimed at supporting AIDS related activities. These activities include donating to research and AIDS related projects and to promote public awareness.

FACT is a broad-based civic group formed out of the grassroots of the community, designed as a fundraising organization.

FACT has a growing membership and has elected officers and a board of directors for 1987. A constitution and by-laws have been approved. The group has applied for incorporation, eventually seeking non-profit status.

Some accomplishments to date include the '86 Bar Olympics held at Rainbow Mountain Resort, the Victory Party Celebration held at the Stonewall, and the most recent, the Have a Heart Ball held at Hamilton Plaza.

We not only need your financial support but your volunteer time is also of extreme value. Join now and make a difference! Different levels of membership are available. For more information, write to:

FACT
P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105-1028



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Coors Strikes Out at Fenway Park

Openly gay Boston City Councilor David Sondras announced this week that Coors beer will no longer be sold at Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox baseball team. The move to ban Coors came as a result of negotiations between Sondras, Fenway Park management, and union representatives.

"Boston baseball fans should not be subsidizing a terrorist war in Central America," said Sondras, referring to Coors' funding of the Contras, "nor should they help support a family that is dedicated to attacking the rights of gay people, blacks, women and unions."

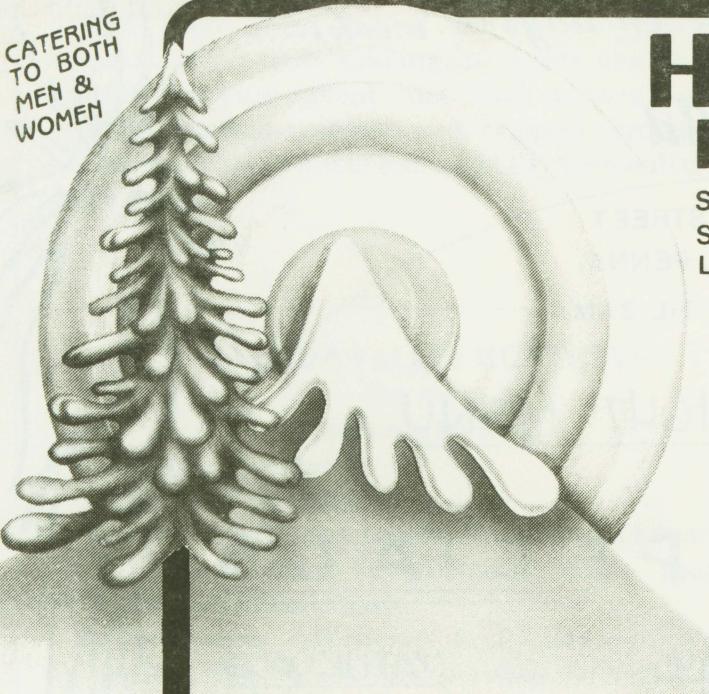
Last year Sondras won an agreement from Fenway Park management to severely restrict Coors sales. This years decision to ban the beer

entirely is believed to be one of the single largest contracts Coors has lost as a result of its alleged homophobic, racist, and anti-union activities.

"Councilor Sondras has shown that together working people, gay people, and all those struggling for social justice can win," said Dominic Bozzotto, head of Local 26 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

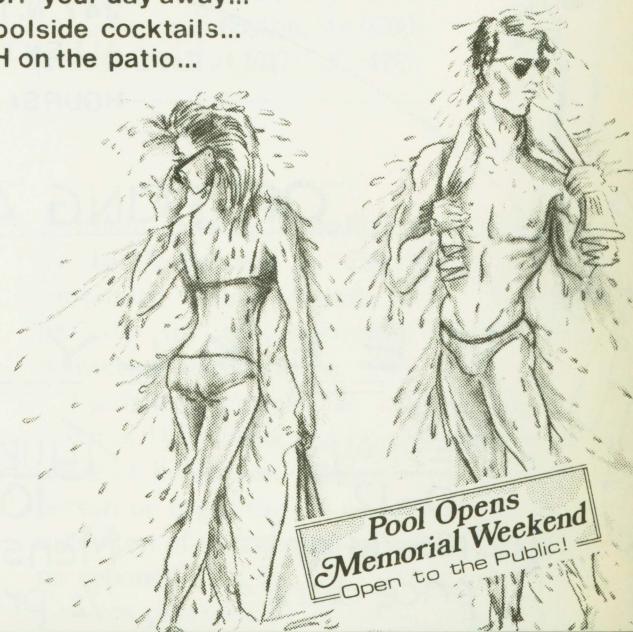
Bozzotto went on to urge activists in other cities to investigate beer sales in other sports parks and arenas to see if Coors is being sold: "Baseball is suppose to be an all-American sport — with their record of union busting, opposing workers' dignity and human rights, and funding terrorism in Central America, Coors doesn't deserve to be sold in any park in this country." ☐

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GLAAD Protests Saturday Night Live Sketch

NBC agrees to discuss gay representation

In response to a recent derogatory sketch on *Saturday Night Live*, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's Media Watch Committee protested strongly to NBC. Several members of the committee subsequently met with representatives from the network to discuss gay representation on network shows and to specifically address the network's response to complaints concerning the episode in question. Ralph Daniels, Vice President of broadcast standards and Dr. Richard Gilbert, director of policy resources at NBC, met for over an hour with Michael Stolbach, chair of GLAAD's Media Watch Committee, Allen Ellenzweig, a member of the committee and GLAAD's executive administrator, and Chuck Edwards, of the Media Watch Committee. During the meeting, NBC provided a videotape of the segment, which featured Steve Guttenberg as a gay character who pretended to be a woman in order to seduce a blind man, who presumably could not tell the difference. They then entertained comments from the committee members concerning their response to the segment and solicited suggestions as to how they might improve their programming and future

representations of gay characters on television. Ellenzweig offered several suggestions of possible scenarios involving gay characters which could have been humorous without being offensive. He also commented that *Saturday Night Live* seemed to have veered from their biting, left of center approach to humor towards a cruder form that relied more heavily on insults at the expense of minority viewers.

Both Daniels and Gilbert were responsive to the committee's comments and mentioned that they were in contact with a number of other gay organizations as well. Daniels stressed that the network would be most responsive to comments or suggestions which were presented in writing and encouraged GLAAD members or other individual viewers to express their views in this manner. He also noted that NBC maintains a special interest group consisting of thirty individuals (including one gay person) whose responsibility it is to monitor sensitive issues and to offer suggestion where necessary. GLAAD has since followed up the meeting with a formal summation of the issues discussed. □

